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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

WASTEWATER REQUIREMENTS FOR VETERINARY CLINICS DIRECTING WASTES TO A SEPTIC SYSTEM

Introduction:

Veterinary clinics in Kansas are sometimes located in areas not served by sanitary sewers. Veterinary clinics in these areas often discharge their liquid wastes into septic systems. Wastewaters generated at these clinics may pose a threat of soil and groundwater contamination. A septic system receiving veterinary clinic wastes is considered a Class V injection well subject to regulation under the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Underground Injection Control regulations found at KDHE Article 46 – Underground Injection Control Regulations. Per KDHE regulation K.A.R. 28-46-27, the septic system cannot endanger the public health or the environment. In addition, per KDHE regulation K.A.R. 28-46-38, the septic system must be inventoried with KDHE.

However, if a veterinary clinic strictly adheres to the following Best Management Practices, the wastes being directed to the septic system would be considered domestic wastes and the septic system would no longer be considered a Class V injection well.

Best Management Practices (BMPs):

Disposal System Practices:

1. Direct only domestic sewage to the septic tank-leachfield. Bath and kennel wastewaters are acceptable, but not dip solutions.
2. Floor drains in rooms where dips are performed must be connected to a holding tank.
3. Infectious wastes, pharmaceuticals, biomedical wastes, and radiological wastes must not be directed to the septic tank-leachfield and must be disposed in accordance with federal and state regulations.
4. The discharge to the septic system must have the approval of the appropriate County environmental/health agency.

Process Practices:

1. Dispose of spent or obsolete products through a vendor or medical waste collection service and must not be discharged down the drain. Some local household hazardous waste collection facilities may accept wastes.
2. Avoid or limit the use of disinfectants containing pesticides. The use of lindane-containing pesticides and disinfectants should be avoided.

3. Isolate and secure medical wastes from other solid wastes and store in appropriate containment.
4. If using an on-site unit to grind sharps (needles) and glassware prior to disposal as a solid waste, disinfectant solutions used in the process must not be discharged down the drain; they must be collected and disposed of by a licensed hauler.
5. X-ray processing wastes such as developer and fixer solutions should be disposed through vendor or by contracted service. A silver recover unit should be installed at the effluent of the rinsewater bath, or recirculated in a closed loop system. The processing should be maintained by an appropriate service. Eliminate continuous flow through rinsewater; use water for makeup only and use a squeegee between steps prior to rinsing to minimize dragout and prolong life of rinse bath.
6. Spent reagents or solvents used in slide preparations should be disposed of through vendor or by contracted service.
7. Use common household grade products and avoid the use of pesticide-bearing or coal tar-bearing products for baths and dips. Pyrethrin, a widely used veterinary pesticide, is generally regarded as relatively safe for the environment for its rapid degradation. Other botanically derived pesticides, such as citrus oils, are becoming available for baths and dips. Some systems are available which clean and reuse dip solutions.
8. Outdoor runs and similar facilities should not be located in flood-prone areas. These facilities can be roofed to prevent contact with precipitation, and swales, berms, or drains can be used to direct surface runoff away from the facility.
9. Fecal matter and soiled bedding can be collected and stored in trash bags for removal by a refuse contractor. Carcasses and body parts can be collected and stored in plastic bags and frozen for collection by a licensed cremating service.
10. Disinfectant solutions can be removed from surfaces with paper towels and disposed of as solid waste, rather than being rinsed into drains.
14. Conduct monthly monitoring of inventory and waste generation. Order products on an as needed basis and in appropriate size units to avoid waste and mark purchase date to allow use of older materials first.
15. Use drain traps to prevent hair from entering the septic system and clogging the leachfield distribution system.
18. Return unused materials to the vendor if possible and implement measures to reduce wastes.
19. Store materials in a controlled, enclosed environment to prolong shelf life, minimize evaporative releases and prevent moisture accumulation.